

SMX 3093.6 (2001-006R1)
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Gerrit Klaerner et al.
Serial No.: 10/043,394
Filed: January 10, 2002
Confirmation No.: 4664

Art Unit 1645

For: POLYMER BRUSHES FOR IMMOBILIZING MOLECULES TO A
SURFACE OR SUBSTRATE HAVING IMPROVED STABILITY

Attention: Office of Licensing and Review

June 12, 2002

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATIONRECEIVED
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TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS,

SIR:

In response to the Notice dated April 29, 2002 from the Patent and Trademark Office in the above-entitled application, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the determination that the subject matter of this application is "useful in the production or utilization of special nuclear materials or atomic energy."

As noted in the present application (see, e.g., page 1, lines 9-24 and the Abstract), the invention is directed to a polymer brush which is particularly well suited for use as a sensor, wherein probes for biological molecules are attached to water-soluble or water-dispersible segments of polymer chains attached to a substrate surface. Sensors of this type are used, for example, to analyze aqueous samples that contain biological material, in order to determine the presence and concentration of bio-molecules in a biological sample. The present invention is further directed to methods of synthesizing such sensors.

Accordingly, the present invention is within the same field as, for example, U.S. Patent Numbers:

5,424,186 (Fodor et al.);

5,436,327 (Southern et al.);

5,445,934 (Fodor et al.);

5,624,711 (Sundberg et al.);

5,744,305 (Fodor et al.);

5,837,832 (Chee et al.);

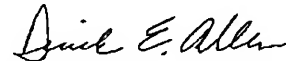
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5,919,523 (Sundberg et al.);	5,919,626 (Shi et al.);
6,004,755 (Wang);	6,027,880 (Cronin et al.);
6,045,996 (Cronin et al.);	6,054,270 (Southern);
6,057,100 (Heyneker); and,	6,087,102 (Chenchik et al.).

In view of the foregoing, it is clear that the present invention is directed to a tool (e.g., a sensor) for analyzing samples for a material of interest (e.g., a bio-molecule), as well as to methods for preparing such a tool. Furthermore, much like the above-noted U.S. patents, the present invention clearly falls within a field that is unrelated to the production or utilization of nuclear materials or atomic energy. 7

Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration of the determination made by the Patent and Trademark Office in this instance.

Respectfully submitted,



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